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United States  
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National  
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Office of the  
Director

Beltsville, Maryland  
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U.S. DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE  
NAT'L AGRIC. LIBRARY  
SERIALS

No. 34, May 31, 1983

NAL NEWS NOTES

### ELEVATOR REPAIR

FEB 27 '84

Elevator No. 3 should be back in operation within 6 weeks, according to present estimates. Repair work began last week on the elevator mechanism which was damaged in late April by a mechanical malfunction. There was no damage to the building itself and little to the elevator car. The remaining two elevators have been double-checked for safety since the incident by private contractors in conformity with State regulations. Your attention is called to the existing policy prohibiting use of the freight elevator for passenger service. This policy remains in effect even during this period. (Neis)

### AGRICULTURAL CHEMICALS EXHIBIT

Several BARC laboratories contributed information, exhibit materials, and artifacts for the May exhibit entitled "Agricultural Chemicals--Past, Present, and Future." This exhibit was planned in conjunction with the Beltsville Symposia in Agricultural Research held May 16-19 in Beltsville. The symposium registration, poster session, and mixer was held at NAL on May 16. Marilyn Jacobs worked closely with Alan Fusonie in developing the historical ("past") aspect of this exhibit. Louise Bruce helped locate old lab equipment and glassware for this portion of the exhibit. (Farkas)

### DISTINGUISHED VISITOR

Congressman George E. Brown, Jr. (D-California) visited the Library on April 15 with members of his staff. He received an in-depth tour of the Library. Brown has shown an interest in us and our programs before, particularly when he invited us to testify before his House Hearings last fall on the access rural Americans had to agricultural information sources. His committee hearing prints have just been published. D. Hoyt has a copy if anyone would like to read it. (Farkas)

### AGRICULTURAL QUIZ

Felicity Berringer, a reporter for the Washington Post, called Reference Section for confirmation of information for the quiz featured on the Federal Page--the question: When did the Federal Government offer its first direct agricultural subsidy? The answer: In 1839, Congress appropriated \$1,000 for distribution of free seeds and free agricultural statistics. (Lassanyi)

### ARTICLE ON NAL ACTIVITIES

An article highlighting the Library's 1982 activities has been published in the 1983 edition of The Bowker Annual of Library and Book Trade Information. Authored by Gene Farkas, a summary of the year's NAL programs and projects appears regularly in the Federal Libraries section of the annual. (Farkas)

## GOOD IMPRESSIONS

A friend of J. MacLean's (REF), stationed at the AID mission in Manila, sent word recently that he had visited the library at the International Rice Research Institute. When he mentioned knowing someone at NAL, the librarian told him she had taken training with us 15 or 20 years ago, and spoke enthusiastically about the excellent training and stated that the National Agricultural Library was a wonderful library. If it sometimes seems tedious to interrupt our own work to help train some of our foreign visitors, we might remember that the impression we make can be an influence for good for years to come. (Lassanyi)

## ONLINE IN NEW YORK

On April 11-14, D. Hoyt (ER) was in New York City to attend the National Online Meeting held at the Sheraton Centre Hotel and to help staff an NAL exhibit and demonstrate the AGRICOLA database. Dan Starr (F&SP) was also on hand to help out. Approximately 200 copies of the Guide to Services, along with an equal number of information alerts on all aspects of NAL's programs were distributed at the conference. We also performed about 5 hours worth of live online demonstrations for various people coming up to the booth. Our handouts and literature displays were very popular and went quickly. Especially popular were the new sets of AGRICOLA Category Codes. All the copies we had on hand were passed out by the end of the second day.

## NLM BIBLIOGRAPHY CRITIQUED

E. McLaughlin, along with FNIC staff, critiqued a proposed NLM bibliography entitled "Nutrition: A Guide to Sources of Information." Since there were numerous recommendations, it was requested that an acknowledgement be made to the USDA contributors if the revised product incorporated the suggestions. (Lassanyi)

## CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRIES

A copy of the Report and Recommendations on Organic Farming was provided to Congressman Berkeley Bedell's staff (D-Iowa) by E. McLaughlin.

Congressman Richard B. Ray's office (D-Georgia) called for information on Jojoba, on behalf of a constituent. J. MacLean sent several articles, a Quick Bibliography--82-25, as well as a list of seed sources.

Congressman Gerald B. Solomon (R-New York) requested information on "Agriculture in China" as reported by former Secretary of Agriculture Berglund. H. Gilbert provided assistance.

Congressman Jamie L. Whitten's office (D-Mississippi) requested a copy of Miscellaneous Publication No. 229--Development and Significance of the Great Soil Groups in the United States (1936). M. Pisa furnished information available.

Congressman Matthew G. Martinez' office (D-California) called for assistance in obtaining a copy of the handbook: "Gypsy Moth: Research Toward Integrated Pest Management." Technical Bulletin 1584. Via the Forest Service of Pennsylvania, a copy of this handbook was forwarded to the Congressman's office, as well as a copy of the Special Reference Brief (SRB) 83-01 and Quick Bibliography 83-23 on Gypsy Moth. A. Eabon and M. Lassanyi assisted with the request.

#### VISITORS AND TOURS

##### Summary Tabulation of Visitors Received by NAL, April 1983

	No. of Visitors	Other Scientists	Other Professionals	Other Foreign	Countries Domestic	Countries Represented
April	35	0	35	19	16	1
Oct/April	271	21	250	54	217	7

4/4 Mrs. Sutthi Chaydom, United Nations ESCAP, Agriculture Division. General tour to familiarize her with the library. She was organizing literature and data on fertilizer and requested a computerized literature search.

4/5 Eleven members of the PEPEM staff (Extension, Charlotte Travieso). Showed the Information Cycle. AGRICOLA demo was provided by David Hoyt.

4/8 Robert Carlin, Blackwell Ltd., Oxford, U.K., and Wanda Dole, U.S. East Coast representative of Blackwell, N.A., discussed collecting of U.K., U.S. and worldwide literature with Robert Butler and Beth Root.

4/13 Richard Amacher, Information General Corporation, Rockville, discussed with Robert Butler functions performed by NAL.

4/14 Eighteen students from Georgetown University's American Language Institute. Showed the "Information Cycle," gave general tour; Bill Longenecker provided a computer search demonstration.

4/15 Tour and demo for Congressman George E. Brown, Jr. (D-California) and two staff members.

4/19 Douglas J. Campion, National Technical Information Service, DOC, accompanied by Ann Whitehead, ARS, Patent Office. General tour and overview of NAL.

4/20 Beth Lillie of Evaluation Technologies, Inc., visited Robert Butler and Boba Stamenkovich to discuss the foreign mailing list contract.

4/29 Barnie Wahl, Society of American Foresters, brought some journal issues and proceedings of Acquisitions and discussed cost evaluation of back runs of old journals with Robert Butler.

Dr. Abraham Melamed, Ministry of Agriculture, Israel, and Jacob Avni, Agricultural Affairs, Embassy of Israel, recently visited NAL. Dr. Melamed is building a market research collection at the Ministry of Agriculture. M. Pisa consulted with him on the nature and availability of information from USDA.

#### EXTRAMURAL MEETINGS

E. McLaughlin (REF) attended on April 7 the video conference on "Maternal Infant Nutrition: Nutrition Research Update II." The program was sponsored by both USDA and HHS. "Welcomes" were given by Secretaries Block and Heckler, and from Miss Jarratt, Dr. Bentley, and Dr. Brandt.

J. MacLean (REF) attended on April 9 the Joint Spring Workshop sponsored by the local chapters of SLA, ASIS, DCLA, and Law Librarians Society. The subject of the all-day meeting was "Coping with Change: Practical ways to meet today's technological and economic challenges." Excellent speakers presented talks on microcomputers, communications basics, and information careers arising from the new technology.

J. Bellows (RD) attended the Federal Data Processing Expo at the Washington, D.C. Convention Center on April 13.

V. Lefebvre and J. Brogdon (IAD) attended the FEDLINK OCLC Users Group meeting on April 19. K. Nevins and M. Bendig from OCLC discussed and demonstrated the microcomputer enhancement software for the ILL subsystem. The software is now being evaluated in several libraries and plans are to market it before the end of the year. The software combined with a clocked microcomputer provides automatic retrieval of new requests and the ability to update transactions so that routine processing can be done automatically at non-peak hours. This would save staff time but would add cost in terms of computer equipment and Tymet charges. J. Brogdon requested J. Judy to obtain the software/equipment as soon as possible.

J. MacLean (REF) attended on April 22 a meeting of Library Committee on National Arboretum, including a presentation on Spacesaver compact shelving systems, which are going to be installed in the Arboretum Library stacks. Other business included a discussion of assistance to the library being offered by NAL, and selection of a number of books for the collection.

E. McLaughlin (REF) attended "Space Shuttle Nutrition" on April 28. The program was sponsored by the Metro D.C. Affiliate of the Society for Nutrition Education. In her role as president of the affiliate, Elaine coordinated part of the activities including the exhibits, displays and speakers. Approximately 250 individuals attended the program, which included a viewing of the NASA control room where preparation for a satellite launch was underway.

B. Root and W. Gelenter (RD) attended a FEDLINK OCLC Acquisitions Users Meeting.

PERSONNEL

Tamara Arozian and Donald Wells, student aides, reported to Maintenance Section, April 4.

Jane McLeod, GS-322-3, clerk-typist and Patricia Patrick, GS-1411-5, library technician, reported for duty in the Serials Section, each working half-time, on April 18.

Melody Aragon, Acquisitions Section, extended her maternity leave to May 23; on return, she will be part-time, 32 hours per week.

